School Health Update 2021

Pennsylvania Department of Health
Bureau of Community Health Systems
Division of School Health
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Division of School Health

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Immunizations and Communicable Diseases

• Immunization questions should be directed to your local State Health Center/District Immunization Nurse Consultant, or your local Health Department. If they are not able to assist you, contact the Division of Immunizations at 717-787-5681.
  ➤ For information on the school immunization requirements select the link below.
  https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/programs/immunizations/Pages/School.aspx

• Report suspected cases and questions related to communicable diseases and vaccine preventable diseases to your local state health center or the local county or municipal health department.
  ➤ https://www.health.pa.gov/About/Pages/State%20Health%20Centers.aspx
Communications

• Advice on legal, personnel or policy development may not be provided by the Division of School Health.
• Utilize available tools such as the Division of School Health’s website to research topics.
  🌐 https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/school/Pages/School%20Health.aspx
    o The School Health updates (emails and PowerPoints) are posted on the school health website and contain valuable information.
    o These updates are excellent training tools for both healthcare and administrative staff. Please share accordingly.
• Contact the appropriate licensing/ enforcement entities (Immunizations, Education, Board of Nursing, Department of Human Services, etc.)
• Pennsylvania Department of Education
  ➤ https://www.education.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx

• Pa Department of Human Services
  ➤ https://www.compass.state.pa.us/compass.web/Public/CMPHome

• Pa State Board of Nursing
  ➤ https://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsCommissions/Nursing/Pages/default.aspx

• Office of Child Development & Early Learning
  ➤ https://www.education.pa.gov/Early%20Learning/Pages/default.aspx
Suspected Child Abuse & Neglect (SCAN)

- Free live training for school nurses.
- Developed by the PA Academy of Pediatrics.
  - Presented by a Physician and a local Children & Youth worker.
  - Approved for three credits (Act 48/58) that satisfy Act 126 and Act 31 requirements.
  - Go to www.pascan.org to submit your presentation request.
  - Contact Teresa Olsen, Program Director at the PA Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics at tolsen@paaap.org with questions.
• **All questions** regarding medical marijuana refer to:
  - RA-DHMedMarijuana@pa.gov
  - Medical marijuana webpage
    https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/programs/Medical%20Marijuana/Pages/Medical%20Marijuana.aspx
  - Guidance for schools
    https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/programs/Medical%20Marijuana/Pages/School.aspx
School Health

The School Health Program is the oldest program of public health services in Pennsylvania, with responsibilities predating 1895. The program serves all children of school age attending public, private and non-public schools in Pennsylvania and is responsible for providing technical assistance, training and coordination of programs and services to schools, parents and the community at large regarding school health programs and services.

Coronavirus Information

- COVID-19 School Health Resources for School Nurses and Other School Health Care Personnel
- School Health FAQ during COVID-19
- PA Department of Health Coronavirus Resources
- CDC Guidance for Schools and Childcare
- NASN Coronavirus 2019 Resources
## School Health Topics A-Z

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School Health Updates

Emailed Updates

- 2021 School Health Update January 2021
- 2020 School Health Update March 2020
- 2019 School Health Update December 2019
- 2019 School Health Update August 2019
- 2019 School Health Update May 2019
- 2019 School Health Update February 2019
- 2018 School Health Update August 2018
- 2018 School Health Update March 2018
- 2018 School Health Update January 2018
- 2017-18 School Health Update Oct 2017

PowerPoint Presentations

- 2018-2019 School Health Update
- 2018 School Health Update April 2018
- 2017 School Health Update
- 2016 Summer School Health Update
Private/Non-Public Services

• Provision of School Health Services to Private/Non-Public Schools.

School Nurse Act, Act 707 of 1962
• Equal health services are required for public and non-public schools.
• Neither the law nor regulation distinguish differences in the level of service to public vs. non-public schools.

Pa. Public School Code, § 14-1401 and 14-1402
• (1) "Children of school age“ ...means every child attending or who should attend an elementary grade or high school, either public or private, within the Commonwealth.
• Section 1402(a.1) requires that “every child of school age shall be provided with school nurse services ...”
• Private, parochial and non-public school entities may request school health services from the public school district within its geographical boundaries.

  DOH Division of School Health recommends the administrators of the two school entities come to an agreement on the services to be provided, through a written memorandum of understanding (MOU).

  28 Pa. Code § 23.52 states that the school nurse services shall be provided through the public school system and the administration of this service shall be the responsibility of the public school administrator in consultation, as needed, with the private or parochial school administrator.
• Provision of School Health Services to Private/Non-Public Schools.
   28 Pa. Code § 23.1 states school districts are required to provide specified health services for children of school age who attend an elementary, grade or high school, either public or private.
   28 Pa. Code § 23.51 states that a child in private, parochial and public schools shall be provided with school nurse services in the school which the child attends.

https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/school/Pages/Private%20School%20Services.aspx
• 28 Pa. Code § 23.74
  ☐ A function of the school nurse is to interpret the health needs of individual children. Includes assessment of student health care needs, development of appropriate plans of care, medication administration, first aid and emergency care, etc.

• Certified school nurses must rotate to every assigned building. Amount of time necessary is based on assessment of student health needs as determined by the school nurse.
School Health Annual Reimbursement Request System (SHARRS)

SHARRS can be accessed at the following link: https://apps.health.pa.gov/sharrs
• A School Dentist is still required for a school with an approved Dental Hygiene Services Program (DHSP).

• The School Dentist must review and approve the Dental Hygiene Authorization Plan.

• The Dental Hygiene Authorization Plan must be closed before the SHARRS system can be opened for data entry in order for the system to process reports correctly.

**Note:** Only the Superintendent/CEO may submit the SHARRS report. Any user may submit the Dental Hygiene Authorization Plan.
• For a DHSP, schools must:
  o Have a Dept. of Education certified dental hygienist hired
  o Have an authorization plan, developed and approved by the school dentist and administration, submitted to and approved by the Division of School Health between April 1st and April 30th.

Refer to the [August 2019 School Health Update](#) for more information on DHSP requirements and helpful links.
• An “Instructions” button is located in the top right corner of every page.
  - Provide detailed guidance on how to complete the report, manage user accounts and determine what data must be included.
  - Button will direct the user to the section of the instructions that correlates to the page the user is on.
• **CSN Days Per Cycle in Building or OTHER Cycle**
  - Days per Cycle reflect the number of days in the School’s cycle the school nurse is assigned to each specific building under their caseload.
  - Formula to calculate days per cycle: Number of hours spent in a building per cycle divided (÷) by the number of hours in a work week multiplied (X) by the days in the cycle equals (=) days per cycle. (the sum of hours for all buildings needs to equal the week’s work hours)
  - Example of a 6 day cycle, 30 hour work week, covering 3 buildings:
    - Bldg 1: 5 hours per cycle ÷ 30 hour work week X 6 day cycle = 1 out of 6
    - Bldg 2: 17 hours per cycle ÷ 30 hour work week X 6 day cycle = 3.4 out of 6
    - Bldg 3: 8 hours per cycle ÷ 30 hour work week X 6 day cycle = 1.6 out of 6
• OTHER Cycle
  - Is checked when the number of hours or days the CSN is scheduled to be present at a specific building is outside of the school’s standard “Cycle” schedule, such as two hours every other week, one day per month, or when the cycle varies from week to week.
  - A **description** of the “OTHER Cycle” is required in the comment box.
    - The term “PRN” or “As Needed” is not an acceptable description.
SHARRS data is used for statistical reporting and research and should be accurate.

- Ungraded special education has been removed from the ADM field, as directed by PDE.
- Grade should be entered as defined in the student’s IEP.

A CSN should review the report prior to submission to ensure healthcare data is accurate, as data entry errors delay the processing of the SHARRS report.
Screenings and Exams

- Written into law and regulation.
- Required for ALL students in the mandated grades.
- Prioritize starting with the most vulnerable and those with known problems.
- Encourage parents to have exams done by student's PCP/Dentist.
For the 20-21 SHARRS report:
If screenings/exams are not completed/incomplete due to COVID-19, ensure that the data entry person places the following verbiage in the “Comment” box on the “ADM page”:

- "Health screens and exams not completed/incomplete due to COVID-19."

This will aid in expediting the processing of the report.
The Pennsylvania Public School Code Section 1402. Health Services (e) requires that students upon original entry, 6th grade and 11th grade be given a "comprehensive appraisal" of their health.

- The physical is to be completed within 4 months prior to the start of the school year.
- Section 1402(c) requires the completion of medical questionnaires which are to become part of the student's health record.
Act 122 of 2020 Highlights:

- Prior to admission for first time, documentation from PCP or screener with specific training in vision screening techniques and protocols, that the child has passed or failed a vision screening.

- Vision screen to be done every school year, until the child completes fifth grade, and at least every two years thereafter until the child graduates from twelfth grade.

- Vision screen to be performed by school health personnel or screeners with specific training in vision screening techniques and protocols.
• Act 122 of 2020 Highlights:
  
  New vision screening guidelines will go into effect after regulations are promulgated. Additional info will be provided once the regs are promulgated.

  The Advisory Health Board shall promulgate regulations to establish vision screening standards based on instrument based vision screening technologies or visual acuity testing, taking into consideration national guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics AND AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY AND STRABISMUS.

  The regulations shall apply to school years beginning after the regulations are promulgated by the Advisory Health Board.
Medication Administration

- CSN may identify unlicensed school staff to administer the following medications:
  - Asthma rescue inhalers;
  - Epinephrine auto-injectors;
  - Glucagon (if the district opts into Act 86);
  - Insulin (if the district opts into Act 86); and
  - Naloxone (Narcan).
• If self-administration or unlicensed staff are permitted, it requires at a minimum:
  - School policies and procedures;
  - Provider order and permission; and
  - Parent/guardian permission.

• CSN determines staff designation based on a student’s health needs:
  - CSN assures staff training is completed.
  - CSN assesses staff/student annual competency.
  - CSN assures student acknowledgement.
Medical Orders

- Prescribed orders are good for one year.
  - Renew orders at the start of each school year.
  - School year officially begins July 1 per the Department of Education.
  - OTC/CAM medications require an order.

- Parent/guardian provides orders from the student’s licensed prescriber for all medications and treatments.
  - Parent/guardian provides all medications and treatment equipment/supplies for use in school.

- Parent/guardian without prescriptive authority may not direct medical care and treatments.
Standing orders must have school physician approval for use in the following cases:

- Non-licensed staff giving emergency medications like rescue inhalers, epinephrine auto-injectors, and naloxone.
- District licensed nurses providing care at non-public/private schools.
- District licensed volunteers providing care.
- Supplemental nurses at CTCs using district standing orders.
• Schools may minimize use of medications under standing orders for various factors, including cost, expiration date, etc.

• Standing orders are null and void if the district loses its school physician, necessitating individual orders.
Medical Orders (cont.)

• Refer to the medication manual for further guidance.
  - [https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/school/Pages/Medications.aspx](https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/school/Pages/Medications.aspx)

• Orders must contain student name; signature and phone number of licensed prescriber; name and dosage of medication; frequency; route and time of administration; effective start and end dates; and specific directions if needed.

  Orders may not state, “per package or parental instructions.”
Bloodborne Pathogens

• Bloodborne Pathogen (BBP) information for schools can be found on the school health Environmental Issues web page

  ➤ https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/school/Pages/Environmental.aspx this page has been updated with the following information on BBP

  o https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/bbp/occupations.html
School Jurisdiction

- School jurisdiction
  - Public School Code, Section 510
    School board may adopt rules during time students are under supervision of school, including time spent in coming to and returning from school.
  - 22 Pa. Code, Section 15.1
    Equal opportunity to participate in the school program and extracurricular activities.
Schools are required to provide nursing services to students any time they are under school jurisdiction.

School jurisdiction includes:

- Trips to and from school while in school furnished transportation.
- Class time (including lunch, recess, physical education).
- School sponsored extracurricular activities, field trips and camps.
- **Non PIAA** sports/athletic activities (such as intramural activities).
School Jurisdiction (cont.)

- U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights
  - [https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html](https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html)
  - “OCR’s mission is to ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence through vigorous enforcement of civil rights in our nation’s schools”.
  - [https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/faq.html?src=go](https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/faq.html?src=go)
    - Frequently Asked Questions on OCR's work, including information related to our areas of enforcement and the Civil Rights Data Collection.
III. Ensure Equal Opportunity for Participation

“A school district that offers extracurricular athletics must do so in such manner as is necessary to afford qualified students with disabilities an equal opportunity for participation. This means making reasonable modifications and providing those aids and services that are necessary to ensure an equal opportunity to participate, unless the school district can show that doing so would be a fundamental alteration to its program”.
• The Public School Code of 1949 (law)
• Section 1410. Employment of School Health Personnel.
  Except as otherwise provided in this article, all school districts alone or jointly with other districts or joint school boards shall employ school physicians and school dentists but only with the approval of the Secretary of Health... and shall employ one or more school nurses...

• The Pa Code (regulation)
• 23.34. School Nurses
  The duties of school nurses shall be those assigned by the school district or joint school board which are exclusively connected with medical and dental school health activities. The technical content of the duties of the nurse shall be those prescribed by the Department of Health.
Responsibility of nurse to determine appropriate level of care for students.

- **PDE- CSPG 95- Principal**
  - A principal may supervise and direct nurses ... exclusive of directing health services controlled by the Nurse Practice Act.

- **CSPG 101- Paraprofessional**
  - A paraprofessional shall not be directed to engage in health-related activities reserved exclusively for licensed professionals.
• In loco parentis

Public School Code, Section 1317  Authority of Teachers, Vice Principals and Principals over Pupils.

• Every teacher, vice principal and principal in the public schools shall have the right to exercise the same authority as to conduct and behavior over the pupils attending his school, during the time they are in attendance, including the time required in going to and from their homes, as the parents, guardians or persons in parental relation to such pupils may exercise over them.

Does not provide parental authority for medication administration and other nursing functions.
• School Districts do not have to provide services to private-nonpublic K and/or pre-K students if those grades are not offered in the public school.
  - Schools do have to provide services if the K or pre-K is an “integral” part of the school district.
  - Integral means that the pre-K is operated by the public school entity, not just renting space in the school building.
  - School administrators may have an agreement to provide those services; it then becomes a contractual issue between the nurses and administrators.
  - Schools may not receive reimbursement via SHARRS for “Pre-K Counts” students or any preschool program that receives funding from any other source.
• Chapter 3270: Child care centers are regulated by the Department of Human Services

https://www.pacode.com/secure/data/055/chapter3270/chap3270toc.html

- 3270.131a. [Reserved].
- 3270.133. Child medication and special diets.
- 3270.135. Diapering requirements.
- 3270.136. Reporting diseases.
• Sharing health information
  
  49 Pa. Code § 21.18 Nurse Practice Act
  
  • Covers standards of nursing conduct, requirement for registered nurses to safeguard patients’ dignity, right to privacy and the confidentiality of patient information.
  
  • Records that are transferred to a student’s new school are to be maintained by the new school.
  
  • Records entered into an electronic database must be secure from unauthorized personnel access to a student’s health information.

  Records should never be sent back to the student’s previous school, as that school no longer has a right to the student’s health information.
• Sharing health information
  ➢ Pa. Public School Code, § 14-1409
    All health records ... shall be confidential, and their contents shall be divulged only when necessary for the health of the child or at the request of the parent or guardian to a physician ...
  ➢ 28 Pa. Code § 23.55
    Health records shall be maintained for each child ... kept in the school building where the child attends ... available to the school nurse at all times ... shall be transferred with the child when he moves from one school to another or from one district to another.
  ➢ Personally identifiable information should not be submitted to the Division of School Health.
• Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
  - Health records maintained by a school district that receives funds under any program administered by the U.S. Department of Education are “education records” subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
  - FERPA allows schools to disclose a student’s health and medical information to teachers and other school officials, without written consent, if these school officials have “legitimate educational interests” in accordance with school policy.
• Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
  - The school district must issue annual notice of rights under FERPA to parents and to students over age 18, which includes information regarding criteria used by the school for determining which school staff members have been designated as “school officials” and what is “legitimate educational interest” for staff access to education records.
  - [https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/faq.html](https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/faq.html)
    - FERPA@ed.gov
  - [https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/index.html](https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/index.html)
  - [http://www.dhs.pa.gov/yourprivacyrightshipaa/index.htm](http://www.dhs.pa.gov/yourprivacyrightshipaa/index.htm)
Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

School nurses may communicate concerns about medical orders or share related health issues or information that may be relevant to the treatment regimen with the physician.

- HIPAA allows the school nurse and physician to communicate verbally with each other without written authorization of the parent if it is for treatment purposes.
  
  This does not apply to requests for release of health records.

- State licensure statutes and professional standards of practice for nurses and physicians require nurses to question/clarify medical orders, when indicated, before carrying them out, regardless of the healthcare setting. They also require physicians to provide nurses with sufficient information for safe execution of the treatment plan.
Working with Agency Nurses

- The CSN maintains the caseload at all times the student is under school jurisdiction.
- The agency staff functions as a supplemental staff under the guidance of the CSN.
- The agency must share with the school district the most current provider orders and nursing plans of care.
- School nurses should be included in care conferences and receive all updated information.
The school nurse should also receive copies of agency nurse notes to show care provided during school day (maintenance of comprehensive school health record).

The school nurse should receive copies of the medication administration record (MAR). Meds administered by an agency should be counted in SHARRS.
• Home Health Agencies function under HIPAA except when in a school setting, at which time they function under FERPA.

• Agencies must ensure the school is provided with all the appropriated parental consents, a daily report of the care provided and medication administered.
Nurse Practice Issues

• CSN caseload
  - The CSN must go to all assigned buildings on a regular basis.
    • The school district is responsible for provision of school health services.
    • The amount of time necessary is based on assessment of student health needs as determined by the school nurse.
    • The CSN cannot cover a caseload they never see.
    • The CSN needs to be on duty and be available for verbal direction or provide on-site assistance to the supplemental staff nurses as needed.
• If a CSN is absent and a substitute is a supplemental licensed nurse covering the daily needs, the caseload of the absent CSN’s assignment must be temporarily redistributed so the supplemental nurse has a CSN to report to and receive direction from.

• **CSPG 101 Utilization of Paraprofessional Staff**... Paraprofessionals serving as health room aides cannot be directed to engage in health-related activities reserved exclusively for licensed professionals and controlled by the Nurse Practice Act, or other medically related laws...
• Responsibilities:
  • Coordinate care
  • Develop plans of care
  • Participate in teams (ex. student assistance, IEP)
  • Communicate with parents
  • Perform duties exclusively connected with medical and dental school health activities (28 Pa. Code Chapter 23, Section 23.34)
    • The duties of school nurses shall be those assigned by the school district or joint school board which are exclusively connected with medical and dental school health activities. The technical content of the duties of the nurse shall be those prescribed by the Department of Health.
Supplemental staff:

- May not carry a caseload
- May not function as a substitute for a CSN
- Function under their own license
- Function under the direction of the CSN

Responsibilities:

- Meet daily health care needs of students;
- Follow written plans of care for assigned students;
- Assist with completion of mandated screens and exams;
- Consult with the student’s assigned CSN on student health care issues; and
- Function within their scope of practice.
Food Allergy Research & Education (F.A.R.E.) has updated the training module for school staff.

- The new link *F.A.R.E Recognizing and Responding to Anaphylaxis* may be found on the School Health website.

- Individuals must register for the Food Allergy Academy and select the correct course module.

https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/school/Pages/Epinephrine-Training.aspx
Recognizing & Responding to Anaphylaxis

Anaphylaxis (pronounced an-uh-FIL-uh-sis) is a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. Symptoms can affect several areas of the body, including breathing and blood circulation.

Food allergy is the most common cause of anaphylaxis, although several other conditions—such as insect stings, medications, or latex—can also be potential triggers. Rarely, anaphylaxis is caused by exercise. Another uncommon item can occur when a person exercises soon after eating a problem food.

The link leads to the initial registration page.

Clicking on “Register Now” will bring up the following screen.
Once registered, users will see the following screen, where they will select:

Browse Training
• Users may use the search function at the top right, and type “Save a Life” OR
• They may also scroll to the course name, as they are listed alphabetically.

They must select the online course with the Computer Logo

**Save a Life: Recognizing & Responding to Anaphylaxis (New York State Specific)**
Curriculum • FARE ★★★★★ (3)
This course is for individuals to fulfill the training requirements under New York State laws that allow entities to keep undesignated (or “stock”) epinephrine for use in an emergency.

**Save a Life: Recognizing and Responding to Anaphylaxis**
Online Class • FARE ★★★★☆ (114)
Anaphylaxis can happen at any time. Make sure you’re prepared to save a life by taking this free course.
• Individuals will receive a course completion certificate from F.A.R.E. after a knowledge quiz at the end of the module.
If you only carry one thing throughout your entire life, let it be hope. Let it be hope that better things are always ahead. Let it be hope that you can get through even the toughest of times. Let it be hope that you are stronger than any challenge that comes your way. Let it be hope that you are exactly where you are meant to be right now, and that you are on the path to where you are meant to be... Because during these times, hope will be the very thing that carries you through.

- Nikki Banas